



San Diego  
Youth Symphony  
and Conservatory



Phase Two Report  
2015-2017



## SAN DIEGO YOUTH SYMPHONY AND CONSERVATORY HAS CHANGED THE FACE OF MUSIC EDUCATION IN SAN DIEGO AND BEYOND!

Children love to make music. They immediately feel and convey its joy. But joy isn't the only reason to teach children music. Music is a pathway to success.

San Diego Youth Symphony and Conservatory (SDYS) has nurtured the rewards of personal achievement through music for thousands of young people over our seventy year history. We've witnessed firsthand what researchers repeatedly conclude: **significant academic, workforce, and civic engagement gains are associated with high levels of music participation for all youth, especially those of lower socioeconomic backgrounds.**

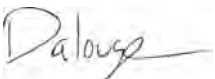
Despite these important outcomes, too many children have been without music education in their schools for decades. This has been particularly true for low income and ethnically diverse children. In 2010, SDYS decided this is unacceptable and established our vision to "Make Music Education Accessible and Affordable for All."

We believe parents, educators, and community leaders will prioritize music education when they witness children thriving due to its numerous benefits. Chula Vista Elementary School District (CVESD) has proven we're right. Working with district leaders, schools, parents, and a wide array of community partners, SDYS' Community Opus Project has returned music and all arts education to the 30,000 children of California's largest K-6 school district after a fifteen year absence.

The National Endowment for the Arts and Grantmakers in the Arts have both recognized and promoted the unique nature of the SDYS/CVESD partnership. The NAMM Foundation, California Alliance for Arts Education, and League of American Orchestras have provided platforms for SDYS to widely share the design and practices of our work. BoardSource, Yale School of Music, and California School Board Association have all bestowed leadership awards on SDYS and CVESD for our collaborative achievements.

SDYS is now at the forefront of the national cause for music education. The newly enacted Every Student Succeeds Act affirms schools must provide a well-rounded curriculum. After years without, districts are turning to SDYS for support and guidance with the restoration of quality music instruction in their schools. SDYS is transforming the dynamic between nonprofits and schools by showing the way as a capacity partner instead of simply being a program provider. Nonprofit and education leaders across California and the United States are learning from the success of the Community Opus Project.

Our most important accomplishment, however, is ushering thousands of children into the future with the rewards of learning music. Join us in guaranteeing all children grow up with their share of these musical riches!



**Dalouge Smith**  
President & CEO



# San Diego Youth Symphony and Conservatory

SDYS provides the region's most advanced orchestra and wind ensemble experiences to the young people of San Diego County. Based in Balboa Park, SDYS is the City of San Diego's youth orchestra in residence. SDYS guarantees a placement to every student who auditions and provides need-based scholarships to students from low-income families. The most advanced SDYS orchestras perform repertoire commonly heard on professional symphony programs and serve as an inspiration to the hundreds of aspiring musicians in both the Conservatory Programs and Community Programs.

**10 Year Goal** Music Education is Accessible and Affordable for All

**Core Purpose** Inspiring students to develop performance skills and character through music education.

**Core Values** Personal Achievement — *Motivating and facilitating performance excellence*  
Community Leadership — *Developing respectful and responsible citizenship for the greater good*  
Inclusiveness — *Embracing diversity and promoting collective learning*

## OPUS MOMENTS: SUCCESS STORIES



### ISAAC, TRUMPET

"Playing an instrument is always fun because it challenges your mind. Music and fun—it's always the best."

### SANDRA, MOTHER

"Before this program, I would have to almost beg Vanessa to do her homework. Now, she has changed a lot. I don't even have to remind her."

### JOANNA, SAXOPHONE

"The benefit of music is it actually increases our memory and it's really really fun. It's part of my life, so why not enjoy it? At school we get to learn new songs. It's fun."

### SUPERINTENDENT FRANCISCO ESCOBEDO, ED.D.

"Music is a unifying medium that solidifies knowledge, and the quest for knowledge. They learn not only to play an instrument, but also to work as a team."

### BRUNO, CELLO

"Before I had music, I was having trouble. I didn't see the point of doing homework or paying attention at school." (Now in middle school, Bruno is taking honors classes and earning "A's" on his report card.)

### ANUSH, SAXOPHONE

"It's not just about music, it's about meeting new people, making new friends, and playing the instrument that we want."

### PRINCIPAL ERIC BANATAO

"I get calls and emails that say, 'Thank you, this has been the happiest my child has come home in three or four years. It's reinvigorated our campus in terms of attendance.'"

### ALMA, MOTHER OF SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENT

"Fernando is getting more confident and improving his social skills which is a problem area for him. He has to interact with the other musicians at Opus and now he stays in the room without my supervision! As a family, we don't feel separated. Everyone has embraced us and Fernando is happier than before because he's a part of something important. He feels proud of being in Opus."

### SEAN, TROMBONE

"It's scientifically proven that music makes your brain smarter. It's also scientifically proven that Opus is better than everything else."



# Community Opus Project Supporters & Partners

Over the last 5 years, the expansion of the Community Opus Project has only been possible with the support of these funding partners and many individual donors as well as the participation and collaboration of numerous local and national partners.

## SCHOOL PARTNERS

Chula Vista Elementary School District  
Sweetwater Union High School District  
Visual and Performing Arts  
San Diego County Office of Education  
Visual and Performing Arts  
Kellogg Elementary  
Rodgers Elementary  
Veterans Elementary  
Castle Park Middle  
Chula Vista Middle  
Hilltop Middle  
Castle Park High  
Chula Vista High

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Chula Vista Community Collaborative  
Arts Empower San Diego  
South Bay Community Services  
Chula Vista Promise Neighborhood  
South Bay Alliance for Arts Education  
UC San Diego Center for Human  
Development  
UC San Diego Extension Academic  
Connections  
SDSU School of Music  
San Diego Symphony  
South Bay Family YMCA  
STEAM Connect  
La Jolla Music Society

## NATIONAL PARTNERS

California Alliance for Arts Education  
El Sistema USA  
The Ensemble  
ICAN, Santa Barbara  
League of American Orchestras  
Longy School of Music at Bard College  
National Endowment for the Arts  
Sistema Global  
Support Music Coalition  
VH1 Save The Music Foundation  
VYMA — Verdugo Young Musicians  
Association, Pasadena  
The Weill Music Institute, Carnegie Hall  
Yale School of Music  
YOLA, LA Philharmonic

## GOVERNMENT FUNDERS

Chula Vista Elementary School District  
Sweetwater Union High School District  
City of Chula Vista Cultural Arts  
Commission  
City of San Diego Commission for Arts  
and Culture  
County of San Diego Neighborhood  
Reinvestment Program  
California Arts Council  
National Endowment for the Arts  
US Department of Education – Promise  
Neighborhood

## FOUNDATION AND CORPORATE FUNDERS

Arthur P Pratt & Jeanette Gladys Pratt  
Memorial Fund  
BoardSource

Christopher C. Collins Foundation  
Christopher Weil & Co  
Clarence E. Heller Foundation  
Crossroads II Corporation  
Cubic Corporation  
Cynergy  
D'Addario Foundation  
David C. Copley Foundation  
Ford Motor Company Fund/San Diego  
County Ford Dealers  
Goodrich/Rohr Employees Fund  
James Irvine Foundation  
Kinder Morgan  
James Lauer Fund at The San Diego  
Foundation  
League of American Orchestras/Getty  
Foundation  
Legler-Benbough Foundation  
Mandell Weiss Charitable Trust

Masserini Charitable Trust  
NAMM Foundation  
Nordson Corporation Foundation  
Opus Community Foundation  
Price Family Charitable Fund  
ResMed Foundation  
Samuel H. French III and Katherine Weaver  
French Fund  
Samuel I. & John Henry Fox Foundation  
Sidney Stern Memorial Trust  
Southwest Chula Vista Civic Association  
The Parker Foundation  
Thomas C. Ackerman Foundation  
U.S. Bancorp Foundation  
Union Bank Foundation  
VH1 Save The Music Foundation  
Walter J. and Betty C. Zable Foundation  
Weingart Foundation  
Wells Fargo Foundation



To become an investor in our work to return music education to every child, please contact External Relations Director Wade Sherman at [wsherman@s dys.org](mailto:wsherman@s dys.org) / 619.233.3232 x116.

# San Diego Youth Symphony and Conservatory

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Grand Prize Winner**—2012 Prudential Leadership Awards for Exceptional Nonprofit Boards from BoardSource

**Winner**—2011 Kaleidoscope Award for Exceptional Governance from University of San Diego

Mark Bennett, *Chair*  
Ernie Smith, *Governance Vice Chair*  
Anni Lipper, *Strategic Advancement Vice Chair*  
June Shillman, *Strategic Advancement Vice Chair*  
Ellen Turnage Doty, *Program Vice Chair*  
Ed Abeyta, *Community Relations Vice Chair*  
Gene Summ, *Corporate Relations Vice Chair*  
Bernie Kulchin, *Secretary*  
Abdul Chohan, *Treasurer*

Katherine Chapin  
Eric Cohen  
John Lipsey  
Patricia McQuater  
Archie Palencia  
Eli Shefter  
Joel Sollender  
Jeanette Stevens  
Shankar Subramaniam

## ADVISORY COUNCIL

*These community leaders assist the Board of Directors, President & CEO and Music Director with expertise and enthusiasm to advance the organizational mission and vision.*

Marvin Levine, Chair  
Larry Hoeksema, Architects Moshier Drew  
Maurice Kawashima  
Peter Manes  
Larry Scott  
Matthew Weil, Christopher Weil and Company, Inc.

## PRESIDENT AND CEO

Dalouge Smith

## MUSIC DIRECTOR

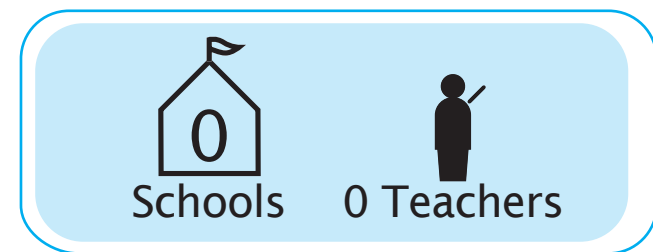
Jeff Edmons

# Making Music Education Accessible and Affordable for All



## CHULA VISTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT (CVESD) IN-SCHOOL MUSIC EDUCATION

GROWTH OF CHILDREN RECEIVING MUSIC EDUCATION IN-SCHOOL

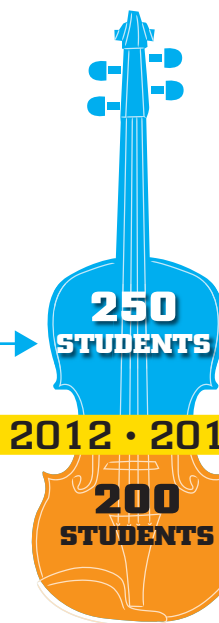


2010 • 2011 2011 • 2012



## COMMUNITY OPUS PROJECT AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

GROWTH OF CHILDREN PARTICIPATING IN AFTER-SCHOOL MUSIC EDUCATION



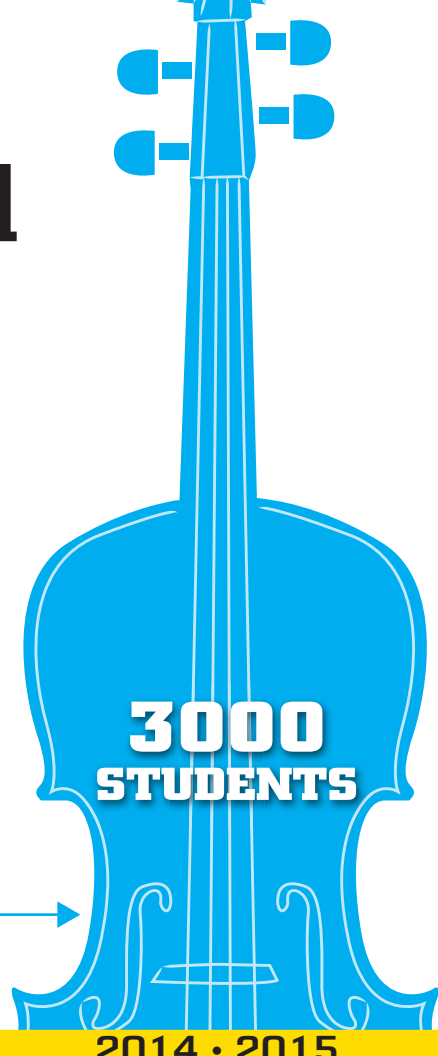
2012 • 2013

SDYS TEACHES PILOT YEAR OF IN-SCHOOL MUSIC CLASSES IN SIX 3RD GRADES AND ONE KINDERGARTEN



2013 • 2014

- CVESD SCHOOL BOARD ADOPTS VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS STRATEGIC PLAN
- 1ST SCHOOL RECEIVES VH1 SAVE THE MUSIC FOUNDATION GRANT



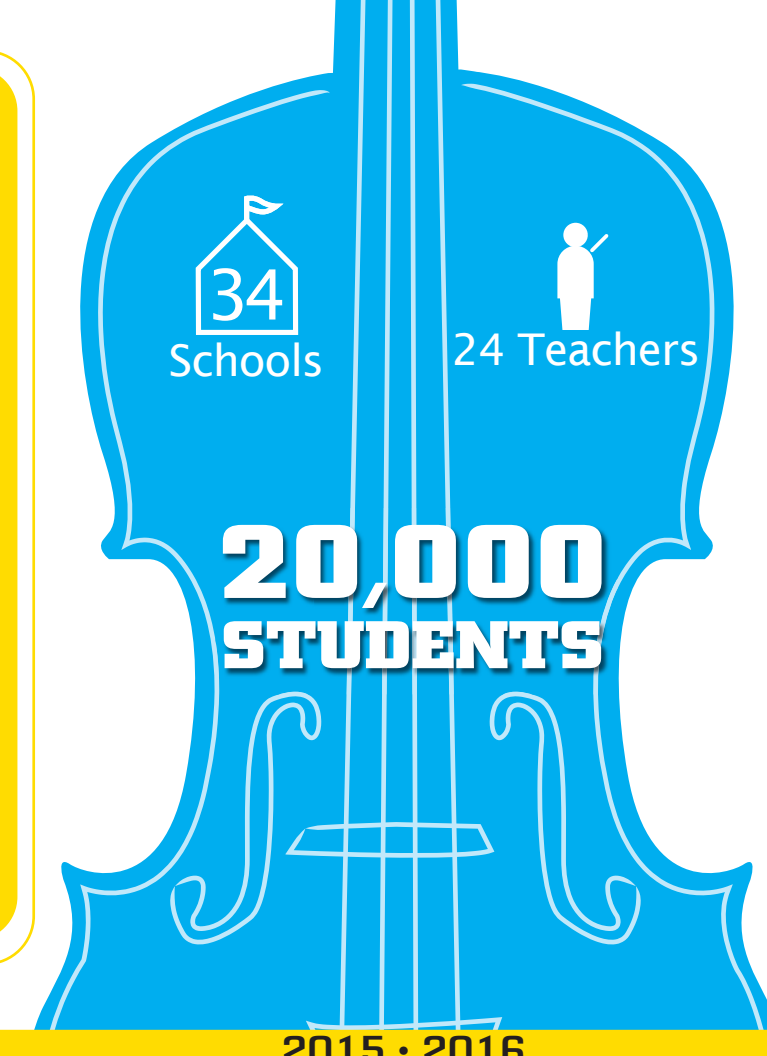
2014 • 2015

- OPUS PROGRAM OPEN TO ALL CVESD STUDENTS
- OPUS INTRODUCES MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM

- VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS RESOURCE TEACHER HIRED
- 4 MORE SCHOOLS RECEIVE VH1 SAVE THE MUSIC FOUNDATION GRANT

2015-2016  
**OPUS INSPIRES CVESD TO RETURN ALL ARTS TO SCHOOLS**

- 28 VISUAL ARTS
- 24 DANCE
- 14 THEATER
- 4 MEDIA ARTS



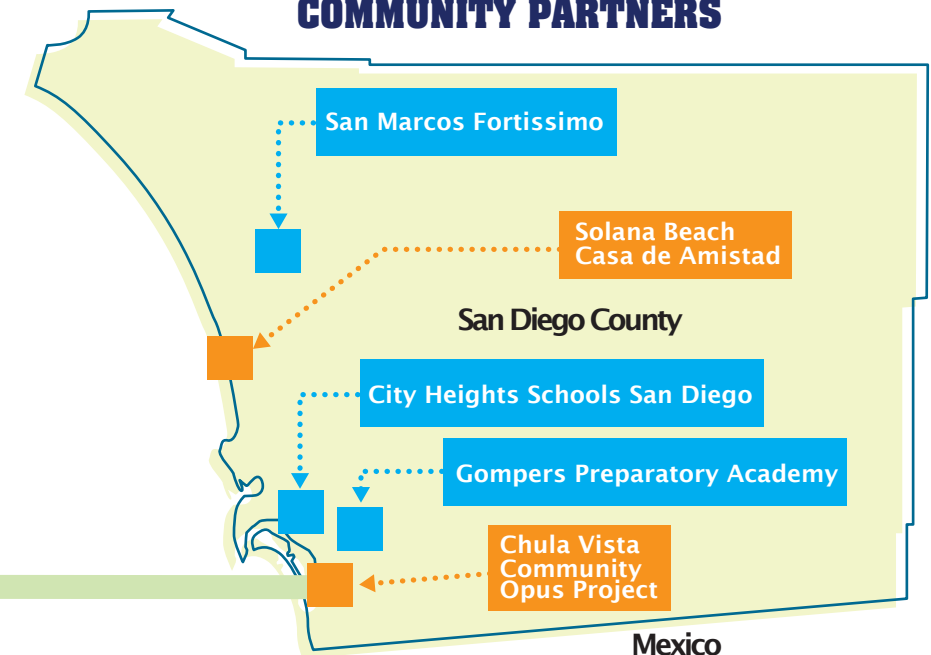
2015 • 2016

- OPUS PROGRAM WELCOMES STUDENTS FROM CVESD, CHARTER, PRIVATE AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS

- CVESD BOARD COMMITS TO \$15 MILLION OVER 3 YEARS FOR 70+ VAPA TEACHERS
- VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS COORDINATOR POSITION INTRODUCED
- 4 MORE SCHOOLS RECEIVE VH1 SAVE THE MUSIC FOUNDATION GRANTS



## San Diego Youth Symphony and Conservatory COMMUNITY PARTNERS



SDYS after school programs SDYS advising and coaching after and in-school programs

- **SAN MARCOS - FORTISSIMO - 2014**  
SDYS provides coaching and advice for the Fortissimo El Sistema-inspired music program at Joli Ann Leichtag Elementary School including the creation of a school district Visual and Performing Arts Strategic Plan.
- **SOLANA BEACH - CASA DE AMISTAD - 2014**  
SDYS partners with the after-school education non-profit organization to provide music classes led by our Opus Teaching Artists.
- **CITY HEIGHTS - SCHOOLS - 2013**  
SDYS supports and coaches in-school music teachers and coordinates with Visual and Performing Arts leadership at Rosa Parks Elementary School, Wilson Middle School, Monroe Clark Middle School and Hoover High School.
- **SOUTHEAST SAN DIEGO - GOMPERS - 2016**  
SDYS recently partnered with Gompers Preparatory Academy, a charter middle and high school located in Southeast San Diego, to help develop a long-term vision and plan for music education and performing arts.